

# News From U.S. Senator Barbara A. Mikulski Democrat from Maryland



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **MIKULSKI DELIVERS ON COMMITMENT TO BRAC-RELATED TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS**

*Secures \$56.7 million for Maryland priorities*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – **Senator Barbara A. Mikulski (D-Md.)**, a member of the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (THUD) Appropriations Subcommittee, today announced the 2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act includes funding for key transportation projects she fought for to help Maryland communities manage growth related to the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission's recommendations. The 2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act passed the Senate tonight. It now goes to the President to be signed into law.

"My promises made to BRAC-impacted communities are promises kept. BRAC brings great opportunities, but it also brings great challenges. That's why I want to make sure Maryland has what it needs in the federal checkbook to implement the BRAC decisions and meet the increased demands on our communities," said Senator Mikulski. "More money for Maryland highways and public transit systems means safer and faster commutes to work. This funding will help BRAC-ready our transportation systems to keep Marylanders on the move."

Senator Mikulski has been fighting for several years to prepare Maryland communities and military bases for the BRAC process, which will bring thousands of new employees to the state. This includes 10,000 new jobs that will never leave the country, in addition to 85,000 existing jobs on bases and up to 40,000 non-direct jobs.

*The Omnibus bill includes:*

- **\$34.7 million for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA)** to purchase new rail cars. This is the third and final payment for a total of 52 new rail cars, which will boost ridership capacity by one-third and relieve Metro overcrowding.
- **\$13 million for Maryland's MARC Commuter Rail System** to fund ready-to-go construction at existing and new MARC stations and to buy new rail cars. Current ridership exceeds 30,000 daily trips and is expected to grow to 36,000 within five years. MARC is energy efficient and a low greenhouse gas emitting form of transportation.
- **\$3 million to improve access to the National Naval Medical Center** in Bethesda to make intersection improvements to already heavily congested Rockville Pike.
- **\$3 million to improve access to Fort Meade** in Anne Arundel County and relieve future BRAC-related traffic congestion.
- **\$3 million to improve access to Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG)** in Harford County by making intersection improvements along the highways leading to the installation.